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Today's News

Affymetrix Announces Commercial Launch of Single Array for Human Genome Expression Analysis



AFFYMETRIX GENECHIP(R) BRAND HUMAN GENOME U133 PLUS 2.0 ARRAY

Affymetrix GeneChip(R) Brand Human Genome U133 Plus 2.0 Array.
 (PRNewsFoto)[AS]
 SANTA CLARA, CA USA 10/02/2003

Website

More Than 1 Million Probes Analyze Expression Levels of Nearly 50,000 RNA Transcripts and Variants on a Single Array the Size of a Thumbnail

SANTA CLARA, Calif., Oct. 2 /PRNewswire/ -- Affymetrix, Inc., (Nasdaq: AFFX) announced today that it is taking orders for its new GeneChip(R) brand Human Genome U133 Plus 2.0 Array, offering researchers the protein-coding content of the human genome on a single commercially available catalog microarray. The HG-U133 Plus 2.0 Array analyzes the expression level of nearly 50,000 RNA transcripts and variants with 22 different probes per transcript, providing superior data quality unmatched by technologies using a single probe per transcript.

(Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20031002/SFTH021>)

"With about 1.3 million probes on a chip the size of a human thumbnail, the Human Plus Array represents a leap in array technology data capacity, and further demonstrates the unique power and potential of our technology to explore vast areas of the genome," said Trevor J. Nicholls, Ph.D., Chief Commercial Officer. "Multiple independent measurements for each transcript ensure that our data quality remains the industry standard, even as our data capacity increases dramatically."

The HG-U133 Plus 2.0 Array, which will ship in October, combines the content of the previous HG-U133 two-array set with nearly 10,000 new probe sets representing about 6,500 new genes, for a total of nearly 50,000 RNA transcripts and variants. This new information, verified against the latest version of the publicly available genome map, provides researchers the most comprehensive and up-to-date genome-wide gene expression analysis. The probe design strategy of the HG-U133 Plus 2.0 Array is identical to the previous HG-U133 Set, providing very strong data concordance between the two products. With more than double the data capacity of the previous-generation Affymetrix human product, the HG-U133 Plus 2.0 Array can significantly cut processing and analysis time for scientists in the lab, freeing up valuable resources and accelerating research.

The HG-U133 Plus 2.0 Array sets a new standard for the number of genes and transcripts on any commercially available single array for human gene

expression analysis, while maintaining Affymetrix' unrivaled data quality. The HG-U133 Plus 2.0 Array uses 22 independent measures to detect the hybridization of each transcript on the array, 1.3 million data points in all, more than 30 times that of any other microarray technology. Using multiple, independent measurements provides optimal sensitivity and specificity, and the most accurate, consistent and statistically significant results possible.

"More data points produce more reliable results and ultimately, enable better science," said Nicholls. "Our powerful probe set strategy gives our customers the assurance that their array results actually reflect what's in their sample."

Affymetrix is also launching an updated 11-micron version of its popular 18-micron HG-U133A Array called the GeneChip HG-U133A 2.0 Array. The reduced feature size on this new design means researchers can use smaller sample volumes than on the previous 18-micron array without compromising performance. This new array represents over 20,000 transcripts that can be used to explore human biology and disease processes. All probe sets represented on the original GeneChip HG-U133A Array are identically replicated on the GeneChip HG-U133A 2.0 Array.

More information on the design of the HG-U133 Plus 2.0 Array and the HG-U133A 2.0 Array may be found on the Affymetrix website at <http://www.affymetrix.com>.

Affymetrix will be presenting further information on this and other products at the BioTechnica trade show in Hanover, Germany on Oct. 7-9, 2003. The Company will also hold a press conference on Oct. 7, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the show regarding the new Human Genome U133 Plus 2.0 Array. If you would like to attend this press conference, please contact Caroline Stupnicka at c.stupnicka@northbankcommunications.com.

About Affymetrix:

Affymetrix is a pioneer in creating breakthrough tools that are driving the genomic revolution. By applying the principles of semiconductor technology to the life sciences, Affymetrix develops and commercializes systems that enable scientists to improve the quality of life. The Company's customers include pharmaceutical, biotechnology, agrichemical, diagnostics and consumer products companies as well as academic, government and other non-profit research institutes. Affymetrix offers an expanding portfolio of integrated products and services, including its integrated GeneChip platform, to address growing markets focused on understanding the relationship between genes and human health. Additional information on Affymetrix can be found at <http://www.affymetrix.com>.

All statements in this press release that are not historical are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act as amended, including statements regarding Affymetrix' "expectations," "beliefs," "hopes," "intentions," "strategies" or the like. Such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially for Affymetrix from those projected, including, but not limited to risks of the Company's ability to achieve and sustain higher levels of revenue, higher gross margins, reduced operating expenses, uncertainties relating to technological approaches, manufacturing, product development, market acceptance (including uncertainties relating to product development and market acceptance of the GeneChip HG-U133 Human Plus 2.0 Array and the HG-U133A 2.0), personnel retention, uncertainties related to cost and pricing of Affymetrix products, dependence on collaborative partners, uncertainties relating to sole source suppliers, uncertainties relating to FDA and other regulatory approvals, competition, risks relating to intellectual property of others and the uncertainties of patent protection and litigation. These and other risk factors are discussed in Affymetrix' Form 10-K for the

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